

[25 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Construction of godowns

†3295. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project worth Rs.40.29 crores from Bihar State storage corporation for construction of godowns in different districts are lying pending with Government;

(b) if so, by when it is expected to be sanctioned; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Procurement of rice instead of paddy

3296. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA": Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to procure rice and not paddy henceforth from the farmers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, whether there is any such proposal under consideration; and

(d) if so, how the adverse implications of this policy to the farmers would be taken care of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) No decision has been taken by the Government not to procure paddy by the FCI during the ensuing Kharif Marketing Season.

Opium poppy crop

3297. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the United States have signed an agreement for joint survey of country's illicit opium poppy crop:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the terms of the collaboration; and

(c) what is the annual yield of opium and poppy during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 and the estimate for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Under the agreement signed between India and the US in June, 2000, the US Government has offered a project assistance of US \$ 70,000 for conducting a Joint Licit Opium Poppy Survey (JLOPS) to develop a methodology for estimating opium gum yield. The life of the project is planned to be approximately 18 months or two opium poppy growing seasons. The aim of the study is to develop an accurate estimate of potential licit opium yield in the country.

(c) Annual yields of opium during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 at 70 °C have been 334 MT, 1382 MT and 1674 MT (Provisional) respectively. The crop for the year 2000-2001 is still to be sown.

Funds for improving the yield of cotton

3298. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount proposed to be spent towards improving the yield of cotton in the country; and

(b) the amount which has to be provided to Karnataka to double the yield of cotton during 2000- 2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) An amount of Rs.5326.58 lakhs has been allocated as Central Share for the current financial year, namely 2000-2001 for improving the yield of cotton in the country.

(b) The amount allocated to be State Government of Karnataka for the current year is Rs.466.59 lakhs.

Use of atomic energy for peaceful purpose

3299. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the areas where atomic energy has been used for peaceful purpose in the country so far;